

WO-58

circa 1786

Benjamin Aydelotte House
(J.R. Boston Farm)
Sheephouse Road (original site)
Pocomoke City vicinity

Estimated to be one of the oldest structures in southern Worcester County, this story-and-a-half, brick-ended frame house was evidently erected shortly after the revolution on land called "Black Ridge," then owned by Benjamin and Esther Aydelotte. Flemish bond brick gable ends rise on each end and the front and back walls are of frame covered with weatherboards. Exposed inside is a series of heavy tie beams decorated with corner beads. One beam is dated with a chalk inscription, "August 18th 1786." While the date could have been written to indicate another event, the type of construction and the surviving elements of original woodwork agree architecturally with the scrawled date.

Built with a hall/parlor plan, the 18th century structure retains portions of the original raised-panel woodwork and board partitions. The house was altered extensively during the 19th and 20th centuries; doors and windows were repositioned, and a cross gable and shed addition were added.

During the past 15 years the house was moved from its original site of Sheephouse Road to a new location nearer the Maryland/Virginia line. The farm on which the house was originally erected, known as "Black Ridge," was acquired in the mid 18th century by Esther Aydelotte from her father, Peter Watson of adjacent Accomack County, Virginia. Benjamin Aydelotte purchased other tracts as well, mostly on the west side of the head of Swanscut Creek. Before his death in December 1793, Benjamin and Esther Aydelotte deeded ownership of "Black Ridge," then containing 240 acres, to their son William, who farmed the land until his death in 1809. In his will, William directed: "I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary Aydelott all my other lands lying to the North of the aforementioned ditch and line of marked trees. During her natural life and then to my son John Aydelott to him and his assigns forever." John Aydelotte retained ownership of the Black Ridge lands until 1825, when he sold 185 acres with the house to his brother William. Thirteen years later, in June 1838, William sold the Black Ridge plantation, along with parcels known as "Hog Hill" and "Miflin's Discovery," to his nephew, John's son William J. Aydelotte, who maintained ownership until the late 19th century. During the early 20th century the farm passed into the Powell and related Boston families.

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Worcester TOWN Pocomoke City CINITY STREET NO. Sheephouse Rd., .1 mile east of Brantley Rd. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER J. R. Boston PRESENT USE tenant house WALL CONSTRUCTION brick and frame NO. OF STORIES 1½		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY WO-58	
		2. NAME J. R. Boston Farm DATE OR PERIOD 18th century STYLE Colonial ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO			
<p>The J. R. Boston Farm house is a one-and-a-half story building with brick gables and frame side walls. The brick is laid in Flemish bond with random glazing. One wall is painted red and the other white, as are the other parts of the structure. There are two small windows in each gable with one over one sash, having wide frames and arches of vertical headers. The east wall has a huge fireplace on the outside of the gable which is built like a pyramid to the top of the small windows, then it becomes free standing. This latter feature is partially concealed by a later overhang to the eaves.</p> <p>On the facade a peaked gable has been added. Also a porch and a pair of double windows flank the door which is also not original. To the rear is an enclosed porch built on brick piers.</p> <p>On the west gable and set back half way is a one-story, frame kitchen wing built on piers. The clapboard is painted white and there is a small outshut on its south side.</p> <p>It is located in the middle of a farm with two dilapidated barns, a few small trees and a ditch to the south. It is presently tenanted by negros and is not kept up properly. West of the house is a (oblesque?) monument indicating the burial place of two members of the (Aydellotte?) family.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior Exterior POOR			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 2525 RIVA ROAD ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401 DATE OF RECORD October , 1969	

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY WO-58

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Worcester</u> TOWN <u>Pocomoke City</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Sheephouse Rd., 1 mile east</u> <u>y Brantley Rd.</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>J. R. Boston</u> PRESENT USE <u>tenant house</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick + frame</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>1 1/2</u>	2. NAME <u>J R Boston Farm</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>18th Cent</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u> <p>The J. R. Boston Farm house is a one-and-a-half-story building with brick gables and frame side walls. The brick is laid in Flemish bond with random glazing. One wall is painted red and the other white, as are the other parts of the structure. There are two small windows in each gable with one over one sash, having wide frames and arches of vertical headers. The east wall has a huge fireplace on the outside of the gable which is built like a pyramid to the top of the small windows, then it becomes free standing. This latter feature is partially concealed by a later overhang to the eaves.</p> <p>On the facade a peaked gable has been added. Also a porch and a pair of double windows flank the door which is also not original. To the rear is an enclosed porch built on brick piers.</p> <p>On the west gable and set back half way is a one-story,</p>	
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>poor</u> <p>frame kitchen wing built on piers. The clapboard is painted white and there is a small outshut on its south side.</p> <p>It is located in the middle of a farm with two dilapidated barns, a few small trees and a ditch to the south. It is</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(continued on reverse side)</p>	
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bouwe</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct, 1969</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

WO-58 (continued)

J. R. Boston Farm

presently tenanted by negros and is not kept up properly.
West of the house is a [oblesque?] monument indicating the
burial place of two members of the [Aydellotte?] family.